

Rep. Israel is a Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, which oversees and funds the Department of State, USAID, the Export-Import Bank, Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), the Peace Corps and the Commission on International Religious Freedom, among others.

### Iran

As a Member of the House Appropriations Committee, Rep. Israel has introduced language for consideration for all fiscal year 2011 House Appropriations bills that would require tougher enforcement of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 by federal agencies. A [New York Times report](#) in March 2010 found that U.S. companies doing business in Iran had been awarded \$107 billion in contract payments, grants and other benefits by the federal government over the last decade.

Rep. Israel has consistently advocated for the Administration to enforce current sanctions and punish companies that violate American law. Watch Rep. Israel question Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner about enforcement of the Iran Sanctions Act by [clicking here](#).

In December 2009 Rep. Israel vote yes on the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2009 (H.R.2194).

In October 2009 Rep. Israel voted for H.Res.175, which condemned the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

### Israel

Rep. Israel believes the United States should continue our commitment to pursuing peace in the Middle East and defending our allies. He believes we need to work toward a lasting resolution in the Middle East and broker a two-state solution between the Israelis and Palestinians. On January 9, 2009, Rep. Israel voted in favor of H.Res. 34, a resolution supporting an Israeli-Palestinian peace process and recognizing Israel's right to defend itself.

Rep. Israel has also worked to shut down the smuggling tunnels between Egypt and Gaza. On several visits to Egypt, most recently in February 2009, Rep. Israel has raised this issue directly with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. From his position on the House Appropriations State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee, Rep. Israel has worked to provide assistance to the region so that these tunnels can be shut down and the supply of weapons that threaten Israel and harm civilians can be minimized.

Rep. Israel is also a co-sponsor of H.R.1327 the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act of 2009, which supports the decision of state and local governments and educational institutions to divest from and prohibit investment in persons with investments over \$20 million in Iran's energy sector.

### **Iraq & Afghanistan**

Rep. Israel has made multiple visits to Iraq and Afghanistan to meet with U.S. Armed Forces and top military commanders. In December 2009, he visited Afghanistan as the leader of a Congressional Delegation trip. During that visit he met with General Stanly McChrystal, the Commander of U.S. Forces Afghanistan, to discuss U.S. strategy and policy for Afghanistan.

Rep. Israel is a Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, which oversees funding for many programs in Iraq and Afghanistan and a Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, which oversees funding for military bases around the world.

### **Darfur**

Rep. Israel has been a leading voice in Congress raising awareness about the genocide in Darfur and working to provide assistance through his position on the House Appropriations State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee. For more on the Congressman's work on Darfur, [click here](#).

In January 2009, Rep. Israel wrote a letter to U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice urging her to resist any U.N. attempts to delay action on the International Criminal Court warrant for the arrest of Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir. The bipartisan letter, which was led by Rep. Israel and signed by 22 Members of Congress, also called for a Presidential Envoy to respond to the ongoing crisis in Sudan.

In the 110th Congress (2007-2008), Rep. Israel wrote a provision that was passed in the House

of Representatives that takes aim at expanding genocide relief missions in Darfur through an upgrade of the nearby Abeche airfield in Chad. The Abeche airfield, located near the Darfur region of Sudan, is currently used for some limited military transportation and humanitarian operations but may need upgrades to the air strip and hangars to allow for the increased air traffic that would arise through a UN or NATO deployment or expanded relief missions to Darfur. The Department of Defense (DOD) conducted a study on the feasibility of such an expansion, which sent a message to Sudan's President Omar Hassan Ahmed al-Bashir that the United States is interested in expanding the Abeche airfield for genocide relief missions, NATO operations or a possible U.N. deployment to the region.